

SOUTH

USA NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Spring 2017



Planting the Seeds of Change

**JAGUARSCARE EXPANDS, WALL OF HONOR UNVEILING,
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION MARKS 50 YEARS,
NEW LEADERSHIP AT USA HEALTH**

SOUTH

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA



NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Spring 2017 issue of SOUTH is a publication of the Office of Alumni Relations and the USA National Alumni Association. It is intended to inform alumni and friends of current events and issues concerning them.

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Contents *Spring 2017*

VIEW FROM THE BELL TOWER 2

NEWS 4

ATHLETICS 12

ALUMNI

JAGUARS CARE 14

JAGUAR JOURNEYS 8

ALUMNI STORE 29





12 VOLLEYBALL ALUM DIGS FINLAND

Volleyball standout Mechell Daniel '16 signs with professional league in Finland.



24 THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION MARKS 50 YEARS

2017 is a year of celebration for the College of Education and its nearly 17,000 alumni.

4th Annual
JaguarsCare



14 JAGUARS CARE EXPANDS FROM ONE DAY OF SERVICE TO 30 DAYS



16 ENGRAVED IN TRADITION

Seventh Annual Wall of Honor Unveiling recognizes 242 new lifetime members.

All 1974 Society members will be recognized
in a prime location in the center
for everyone to see and for you to enjoy
when you visit your campus home.





The Julian and Kim MacQueen Alumni Center is the future home on campus for University of South Alabama alumni. Funded solely through gifts to the National Alumni Association, this beautiful new facility will feature two outdoor gathering spaces, an indoor-outdoor fireplace, a spacious lobby for gathering and special events, a well-appointed ballroom that will seat up to 300, and a 30-seat boardroom featuring best-in-class technology. It will serve as home base for alumni events including game watch parties, post-game celebrations, receptions and Homecoming activities.

The 1974 Society, named for the year the Association was founded, will be a major source of funding to build the MacQueen Alumni Center. Your gift of \$1,974, payable over three years at \$658 per year, will allow you to be an integral part of this exciting new project. All 1974 Society members will be recognized in a prime location in the center for everyone to see and for you to enjoy when you visit your campus home.

I invite you to help make this dream a reality with your gift to the 1974 Society. For more information, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 251-460-7092.

GO JAGS!

Karen Edwards '80
Director
Office of Alumni Relations



PA Grad Student Awarded Scholarship

Physician assistant graduate student Karen Finklea '14 received the 2016 National Health Service Corps scholarship, which covers tuition and includes a stipend for related expenses.

The award brings health services to areas of the U.S. with limited access to care. After graduation, Finklea will serve as a primary care provider in an NHSC-approved site for two years.

Finklea earned her undergraduate degree in professional health sciences from South and served as an AmeriCorps volunteer at the West Central Alabama Area Health Education Centers.



Commencement speaker Dean Lee poses for a selfie with USA graduate Emily Alford.

Nearly 40 Years Later, Retired Vice Admiral William “Dean” Lee Walks

Retired U.S. Coast Guard Vice Admiral William “Dean” Lee '79 advised and entertained 1,504 USA degree candidates in December 2016 as he delivered the commencement address, then walked across the Mitchell Center stage to receive his own diploma.

After completing his studies in criminal justice at South in 1979, Lee didn't participate in commencement

ceremonies, telling graduates that he decided “to go to Pensacola Beach and spend the day with my buddies — and it was something I've always regretted.”

Lee's name was the first called as he led graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences to receive their degrees, then shook hands with President Tony Waldrop.

Lee's name was the first to be called
as he led graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences
to receive their degrees.



Student Entrepreneurs Compete in First Causeway Pitch Competition

Students from entrepreneurship and business, biology, nursing, computing, engineering and graphic design competed in the Melton Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation's first Causeway Pitch Competition at USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park.

This is an elevator pitch competition—with a twist: students persuaded Mobile's best business minds to invest in their business ideas while riding the Causeway in a Gulf Coast Duck Boat.

Thirty-five student teams applied and 22 competed for \$2,000 in prizes. Entrepreneurship students prepared all semester and MCEI conducted eight pitch boot camps for the non-business students.



Winners of the Causeway Pitch Competition are, from left to right, Mike Jeffries, Blakney Barrett, Raphaela Reiner and Kobi Bell.



Atkins named to Board of Trustees

Gov. Robert Bentley appointed Mobilian Alexis Atkins '97, vice president of human resources/principal in co-ownership of Budweiser Busch Distributing, Inc., to the University of South Alabama Board of Trustees.

Atkins is a member of the Jaguar Athletic Fund board, the USA Mitchell College of Business board of advisors and Feeding the Gulf Coast Board (formerly the Bay Area Food Bank), of which she is the past chairman. She is also past president of both the University of South Alabama National Alumni Association and Executive Women International.

Andrew Awarded 2017 Distinguished Scholar Award

Damon Andrew '98, dean of LSU's College of Human Sciences and Education, received the 2017 Distinguished Scholar Award from the National Association for Kinesiology in Higher Education. He is also the E.B. "Ted" Robert Endowed Professor and a USA National Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.



Chris Jett '06 was named administrator of USA Children's & Women's Hospital, which serves as the leader in births for Mobile and is one of only five free-standing hospitals dedicated to the unique needs of children and women in the U.S. He is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the 1,200-employee hospital.



Sam Dean was named administrator of USA Medical Center, which serves as the region's only Level I Trauma Center and includes one of the busiest burn units in the country. Dean is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the 1,400-employee acute care hospital dedicated to helping people lead longer, better lives.



New Leadership Named at USA Health

Owen Bailey, a veteran health care leader who has served as chief operating officer of USA Health since March 2016, has been named chief executive officer and senior associate vice president for medical affairs of the comprehensive academic health care system dedicated to helping people lead longer, better lives.

In this role, Bailey will be the chief executive responsible for the management and operation of the University of South Alabama hospitals and outpatient centers with a goal of providing high quality, cost-effective, innovative health care.

"It's an honor to work with this great team," Bailey said. "I'm proud to be part of a system that provides such unique programs and services. USA Health plays a crucial role in providing health care, research and education to our region."

Bailey served as administrator of USA Children's & Women's Hospital from 2011 to 2016, leading the development and opening of a new children's tower in 2013. The tower doubled the size of the hospital and expanded USA Children's & Women's pediatric and neonatal intensive care units.

Medical Honor Society Members Selected

At the USA College of Medicine, 10 medical students, three residents and one faculty member were named to the USA Chapter of the Arnold P. Gold Humanism in Medicine Honor Society. Selection is based on leadership, excellence in clinical care, compassion and dedication.

The new student members are Alan Akira, Sarah K. Cassity, Winston M. Crute, Darren S. Ferree, Katherine E. Glosemeyer, Lauren E.

Nelson, Adam M. Powell, Ashton W. Todd, Mary Morgan Weed and Charles Alexander Wiles.

The residents selected are Dr. Mary Caitlin Marshall, department of internal medicine; Dr. Justin Sobrino, department of surgery; and Dr. John D. Byrd, department of internal medicine.

Dr. Lee Grimm, department of surgery, is the selected faculty member.



The USA Mitchell Cancer Institute is the only academic cancer research and treatment institute on the upper Gulf Coast corridor, with offices in Mobile, Fairhope and Monroeville.

MCI Building Kilborn Clinic in Fairhope

While still under construction in Fairhope, the new USA Mitchell Cancer Institute clinic has been named for attorney and philanthropist Vincent F. Kilborn III. It is expected to open later this year.

The 14,000-square-foot Kilborn Clinic includes exam rooms, treatment areas and physicians' offices. It was designed by WHLC Architecture of Fairhope.

In 2016, Kilborn established the Vincent F. Kilborn III Endowment at MCI, committing \$1.5

million to support the new clinic. Ten years before, he created a research scholar fund at USA to train top physicians and researchers at MCI.

"The generosity of the Kilborn family is heartwarming, and we are very excited about our partnership," said MCI Director Dr. Michael A. Finan. "This generous commitment will provide funding for an endowment, which will support our cancer services in Baldwin County for many years to come."

Step Up to the Plate

It's time to personalize your ride with Jaguar pride. Custom USA license plates already support scholarships for students, and beginning this fall, a portion of plate sales will support Honors College students, said Karen Edwards, director of alumni relations.

JagTags are \$50, in addition to the normal cost of purchasing the license plate. South receives a portion of the proceeds from each sale, and this year the Mitchell-Moulton Scholarship Initiative will match that amount. "Your investment in education immediately doubles," Edwards said.

Last year, even before the matching gift was in place, vehicle owners purchased nearly 2,000 University of South Alabama plates, raising \$72,875 for scholarships.

License plates can be personalized at no additional cost. To reserve a tag and find out how you can support South in six characters, go to revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle and click on "Search or Reserve a Personalized Tag Message" and enter "University of South Alabama" in the search box.



TAKE THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

Learn how at
southalabama.edu/alumni/travel
or 251.460.7084

Jaguar 
Journeys
Your Alumni Travel Program

Adriatic Rhapsody
October 27 - November 4

SAVE THE DATE



2016 Distinguished Alumni and Service Award Recipients (left to right) Dr. James Emil Laier, Diana Kahler Laier '83, Jonathan L. Hursh '04, Dr. Mark Sloan Williams '80, James H. Shumock '81, Christopher L. Lee

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

proudly presents the

2017 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND SERVICE AWARDS

Thursday, June 1, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Mitchell Center

Recognizing outstanding alumni and community leaders for excellence in service to the University, community, state and nation, and for outstanding achievement and/or leadership in their chosen fields of interest.

The 2017 recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award:

James L. "Jim" Busby MBA '83

Vice Admiral William Dean Lee '79 (USCG Retired)

John S. Meigs, Jr. MD '79

The 2017 recipients of the V. Gordon Moulton Distinguished Service Award:

Dr. Patsy Capps Covey

Leeman H. Covey

For information on ticket and table purchases, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at
251-460-7092 or email kedwards@southalabama.edu.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The USA National Alumni Association is currently accepting nominations for the 2018 Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards. Please visit our website, southalabama.edu/alumni for more information.

University Restructures International Initiatives with Global USA

Global USA, a new unit that will greatly enhance the University's institutional priority of Global Engagement, brings together the University's international outreach and engagement.

Global USA includes four offices:

- Global Outreach and International Student Services
- The Office of Immigration and International Admissions
- The Office of International Education
- The English Language Center

"Global USA will greatly benefit the University's international community of students and faculty, and we are also excited at the opportunities for growth this will provide other students who want to further develop their international interests," Dr. Tony Waldrop, University president, said.

Global USA will operate within Academic Affairs, with Dr. Rick Carter, who has been serving as dean of the School of Continuing Education and Special Programs, becoming associate vice president for global engagement and USA's senior international officer.



Planting the Seeds of Change

Ron Stallworth '03 is an engineer, not a farmer, but he hopes to plant the seeds of change each time he helps a person in need. “There are few things that make us feel more inspired than helping someone,” he said.

“Rarely do we achieve anything of significant success without the help of others.”

—RON STALLWORTH '03

It wasn't so long ago that Ron Stallworth needed help from others. He grew up so poor in the Mobile Terrace neighborhood that his house didn't have running water. After his father's death, he lived in the safety of his car to finish Murphy High School. It took him 13 years to graduate from USA with his bachelor's degree, working 70 to 80 hours a week on night shifts at Honeywell UOP in Chickasaw, sleeping an hour or so in the engineering parking lot, then racing to class. "It was really a struggle," said Stallworth. "I wasn't going to be a 4.0 student. I can't tell you how many times I quit, how many times I got discouraged."

But while he was a student, he was already becoming a giver. Stallworth looked to his engineering classmates to see who was helping others. Then, he worked with the department chair to create an anonymous Congeniality Award that "cascaded" into the Ron Stallworth Chemical Engineering Scholarship. "It's rewarding for me to give in that way," he said.

In establishing the scholarship, Stallworth wanted to keep that image of a struggling student in mind. Without lowering the standards, he wanted to be aware of students in difficult circumstances and financial need. Stallworth hopes to grow ambition in the recipients, and to help remove barriers for them.

When Stallworth graduated in 2003, he took a full-time job at Honeywell. Over the years, he's lived in more than 63 countries and earned his MBA in Singapore.

Today, Stallworth is marking his 30th anniversary with Honeywell, and lives northwest of Chicago in Lake in the Hills, Ill., with his wife, Karan, and their 13-year-old son, Jonathan. Ron and Karan met at Hillsdale Middle School and reconnected a few years ago, marrying in December 2015.

"Thank God for blessing me with the heart of a giver," he said. "My dad was a Good Samaritan, even though we were one of the poorest families in Mobile Terrace."

In his former Mobile neighborhood, Stallworth donated several empty lots to Habitat for Humanity of Southwest Alabama, where he sits on the board. His mother lives in the first house Habitat built there. Stallworth plans to donate more lots in the future to allow others in the neighborhood to own a new home.

At USA, Stallworth sits on the National Alumni Board and mentors engineering students. He recently met with Tau Beta Pi, an academic engineering fraternity. He spoke on how to present themselves, as well as framing their résumés to showcase talents and accomplishments. "You've got to clearly articulate what value you're bringing to an employer," he explained.

Stallworth is also penning a book that he hopes to release next year, charting his challenges, blessings and the people who helped him along the way. "Rarely do we achieve anything of significant success without the help of others," he said. "It's rarely about us. It's about other people helping us out and God putting others in our path."



On a recent campus visit with his wife, Karan, Ron Stallworth '03 greeted engineering faculty and staff members including Dean John Steadman, Dr. Nicholas Sylvester, Ronda Girardeau and Brenda Poole.





Volleyball Alum Digs Finland

Former University of South Alabama volleyball standout Mechell Daniel '16 signed a professional contract with Oriveden Ponnistus (OrPo) of the European Volleyball Confederation in Orivesi, Finland.

The Chelmsford, England, native made her professional debut against Pieksamaki on Jan. 18, and helped OrPo to a 3-1 victory.

"It is a small town, and everyone is really friendly here," Daniel said. "I like the people, the team and (coaching) staff. I am really excited to get time on the court and help make a difference."

Daniel, a four-time all-Sun Belt Conference honoree, two-time SBC Commissioner's List recipient and 2013 SBC Freshman of the Year, was the career leader at South Alabama in double-doubles (45) and total attempts (4,444). She ranks second all-time in career kills (1,511), sixth in kills per set (3.37) and seventh in digs (1,037).

Daniel helped lead USA to the best SBC finish (T-2nd in East Division) in program history, and recorded the most wins by a Jaguar team since 1994. She also helped the Jags record the second-highest team attack percentage (.225) in the program's history.

"I like the people, the team and (coaching) staff. I am really excited to get time on the court and help make a difference."

—MECHELL DANIEL '16

USA Tight End Invited to NFL Combine

Former University of South Alabama tight end Gerald Everett took another step toward becoming the program's first-ever selection in the National Football League Draft with the announcement that he was invited to participate in the NFL Scouting Combine. The event took place in Indianapolis from Feb. 28 to March 6. Top executives, coaching staffs, player personnel departments and medical personnel from all 32 NFL teams were on hand to evaluate the nation's top college football players eligible for the upcoming NFL Draft. A selection committee that included the directors of both National and BLESTO scouting services, as well as members of various NFL player personnel departments, determined the participants. The draft begins April 27.

Everett was one of 19 tight ends who took part in the combine. Over the course of four days, participant activities included on-field and psychological testing, interviews with NFL teams, medical examinations, media interview sessions and a National Football League Players Association meeting.

The Lithonia, Ga., native was invited to participate after completing a two-year career with the Jaguars that saw him record 90 receptions for 1,212 yards — an average of 14.36 yards per catch — and 12 touchdowns. He scored 16 touchdowns in all while posting 1,299 all-purpose yards, earning first-team all-Sun Belt Conference honors following each season. Last fall, Everett was a semifinalist for the John Mackey Award presented to the top tight end in the country, then played in the 2017 Reese's Senior Bowl where he was part of a South team that earned a 16-15 win.

Everett is the third former Jag to take part in the NFL Scouting Combine, joining quarterback Brandon Bridge and tight end Wes Saxton, who both were invited after the 2014 season.



GERALD EVERETT
Photo by Scott Donaldson



RAFAEL SCOTT

Scott Breaks USA Record

South track and field runner Rafael Scott broke his own school record, earned a top-five NCAA ranking and led the Jaguars in January's Vanderbilt Invitational.

Scott clocked a time of 6.59 seconds for first place in the men's 60-meter dash to best his own school record. The junior's performance has him tied for the third-fastest time in the NCAA for the event and the best in the Sun Belt Conference this indoor season to date, which qualified Scott to compete at the NCAA Indoor Championship in early March.

"He had a very good start out of the blocks and that is what made the difference," said Jaguar head track and field coach Paul Brueske.

4th Annual JaguarsCare



“JaguarsCare will now be able to improve our campus culture by connecting our students, faculty and staff with our alumni, all while continuing to support civic engagement. We want to create a sense that we are all Jaguars, one family, while giving back to our community.”

—MARCUS WILLIAMS,
SGA TREASURER AND
USA SOUTHERNER



What's the Big Deal?

For our 4th Annual JaguarsCare Community Service Initiative this April, we are excited to not only engage more alumni by reporting projects throughout the month of April, but also involve our students, faculty and staff. What better way to connect alumni with our on-campus community than through community service? You may only be a student for four years, but you're alumni for a lifetime!

The idea to integrate JaguarsCare with our students came about when members of our Student Government Association visited Texas A&M University for a leadership conference and learned about The Big Event. Since its introduction at Texas

A&M in 1982, The Big Event has become the largest one-day student-run service project in the nation. There are now more than 72 Big Events at universities across the country.

JaguarsCare is the big deal! Through the activities of alumni, students, faculty and staff, we are excited to make a difference in our local communities in the name of South Alabama.

Projects are volunteer-led and reflect the diversity of alumni interests and passions. Some projects will be big, some will be small, and together... their impact will be great. Learn how to get involved at southalabama.edu/alumni.

Southerners Giving Back

The USA Southerners, the official ambassadors of the University of South Alabama, will host the 29th Annual Oozeball Mud Volleyball Tournament on April 22nd. Oozeball is one of the longest-running and most popular student-organized fundraisers on campus.

This year, in support of JaguarsCare, the tournament will raise money for the Southerners' new "Spotting Excellence" Scholarship. This scholarship will be a creative application scholarship

awarded to University of South Alabama students that display excellence in and out of the classroom. All funds raised will be matched through the Mitchell-Moulton Scholarship Initiative.

Learn how to support the Southerners and Oozeball by contacting Ailey Shirazi at 251-460-7259 or shirazi@southalabama.edu. Sponsorship opportunities are available.



Top row (l to r): Carl Thomas, Derek Rowan, Danyon Beitel, Marcus Williams, Matthew Brannan, Jack Stephenson, Sam Cockrell. Middle Row (l to r): Zane Patterson, Ally Heng, Kayley Edwards, Shirley Zhang, Olivia Cockrell, Veena Danthuluri, Javon Averett. Bottom Row (l to r): Ravi Rajendra, Jocelyn Medina, Victoria Bishop, Maire Nakada, Sharon Williams, Ju Wan Robinson



OZEBALL 2016



Engraved in Tradition

“I’m very proud to have my name on the wall and be a lifetime member.

I had a great experience

attending South and have fun memories

I shall never forget.

The University of South Alabama is an excellent university.

Go Jags!”

ALTHEA L. MCCANTS '78



This year’s Wall of Honor Unveiling Ceremony marked the seventh annual celebration at Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza. The 242 new lifetime members stood and raised their “J hand” as part of the ceremony. As their names are inscribed on the Wall of Honor, memories of the University of South Alabama are etched on their hearts.

A campus landmark, Moulton Tower and Alumni

Plaza signifies the embodiment of the “dream” of our most loyal and faithful members. They have led the University from its beginning, and will continue to lead our institution into the future.

For more information on how you can become a part of this special tradition, call the Office of Alumni Relations at 251-460-7084.



THE ELEMENTS OF ACHIEVEMENT.

MADISON TUTTLE might change the world. When she graduates, she plans to earn a doctorate and research novel anticancer agents. But without the Mitchell-Moulton Scholarship Initiative, she wouldn't be a USA student. Her ability is only catalyzed by your support. And your gift to MMSI will be immediately doubled, ensuring that students like Madison can change the world. For more information, call (251) 460-7032 or visit southalabama.edu/development.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
MITCHELL-MOULTON
SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE

National Alumni Association Board of Directors

The governing body of the University of South Alabama National Alumni Association is its Board of Directors. Their primary goal is to ensure the mission and vision of the Association, as outlined in our constitution and bylaws, is carried out on behalf of our more than 74,000 graduates. The Board of Directors monitor the financial affairs of the Association,

including the annual audit, the strategic planning process, and alumni programs and services. They also establish policies and goals to accomplish Association priorities. Led by President Doug Whitmore '05, these individuals devote their time, talent and expertise to further the mission of both the Association and the University.

For more information, visit southalabama.edu/departments/alumni/alumniboard.



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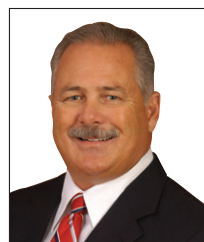
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LARRY FOSTER '72



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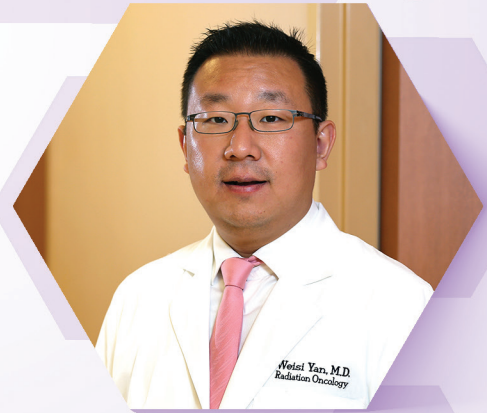
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MCI: Providing the most advanced cancer care, and searching for a cure.

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Do you have fun pictures from South Alabama events? We want to see them! Email your photos to alumni@southalabama.edu or visit our Facebook page – [University of South Alabama National Alumni Association](#).

The USA National Alumni Association would like to thank the following corporate partners for their continued support:

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Around



the Jungle

50 YEARS



INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

College of Education Marks 50 Years

“The College of Education’s history mirrors that of the University.

It began small and has grown as the needs of our students and our community have evolved.”

—DEAN ANDREA KENT

The College of Education recently celebrated “50 Years of Innovation,” a gala event that recognized 50 alumni, friends and supporters who helped shape the College’s first 50 years and have made significant contributions as educators. The list includes deans and retired professors, community activists, principals and superintendents, senators and representatives, bankers, pastors, volunteers and, of course, teachers.

With nearly 17,000 alumni, the College of Education impacts the community both locally and globally. Dean Dr. Andrea Kent proudly boasts that 85 percent of educators in the surrounding school districts hold at least one degree or certification from the College of Education.

“We have countless friends who, through their generous commitment to the College, have shaped the first 50 years of our existence in ways that will impact education for years to come,” stated Kent. “The College of Education’s history mirrors that of the University. It began small and has grown as the needs of our students and our community have evolved.”

While holding fast to its core mission of teacher education, the College’s degree programs expanded over the years to include educational administration, reading specialist, educational media and school counseling. It also includes health and wellness, kinesiology, sport and recreation, instructional design and development, clinical and mental health counseling, hospitality and tourism management, and interdisciplinary studies. The College of Education offers three doctoral programs: instructional design and development, clinical and counseling, psychology, and educational leadership.

“2017 will be a year of celebration for the College of Education,” said Kent. “It will continue to be a year that the College reflects on its identity – an identity that has been built by amazing alumni, faculty, students and community members. It will also mark the beginning of new dreams and the continuation of looking toward the future in working to make dreams become reality.”

Alumni, friends and supporters of the College of Education gathered in February for a gala event celebrating the College’s first 50 years.





Champions for Children & Women

At USA Children's & Women's Hospital,
we are a unique resource in the region,
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